

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

DATE : 24 JUNE 54

~~SECRET~~

ROUTING			
1		4	
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TO : DIRECTOR

FROM : GUATEMALA CITY

ACTION: WH (PBS)(1-3)

INFO : WH (4), DCI (5), D/DCI (6), DD/P (L)(7), SA/PC/DCI (8)

[] 944 (IN 21535)

0845Z 24 JUN 54

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE
PRECEDENCE

TO: (OPIM) SLINC

INFO: (OPIM) DIR

CITE: SQUAT

RYBAT PBSUCCESS INTEL

1. MAY BE ONLY OUR OWN EMOTIONAL PENDULUM, BUT BELIEVE GOVT, WHICH PANICKED 18 JUNE, RECOVERED 21 JUNE, GETTING GROGGY AGAIN. PBPRIME NEWSMEN SAY GOVT REPS THEY DEAL WITH SHOW RENEWED FEAR, JUMPINESS. SUMAC CHIEF OF PROTOCOL TOLD PRESS "THERE IS TOO MUCH FIGHTING GOING ON AT ZACAPA", ECHOING SUMAC VIEW GOVT CANNOT STAND PROLONGED TENSION. NEWSMEN BEGINNING FEEL ANTI-GOVT FORCES WILL WIN IF THEY COMBINE HANGING ON IN NORTH WITH DRAMATIC ACTS IN CAPITAL.
2. GOVT NOT TELLING PEOPLE ANYTHING. ARMY COMMUNIQUE MOSTLY PROPAGANDA, CONTAIN FEW FACTS, POLITICAL NOT MILITARY IN STYLE.
3. FEEL IT SIGNIFICANT GOVT HAS NOT TRIED STAGE MASS RALLIES. STANDEL, COMMIES APPARENTLY FEAR TAKE ANY ACTION PRECISELY AMONG THE MASSES WHOSE SUPPORT THEY CLAIM. ALSO NO REAL EVIDENCE WORKERS BEING ARMED.
4. HAVE SEARCHED WITHOUT RESULT FOR SIGNS COMMIES MIGHT BE PLANNING DESPERATE, LAST-DITCH STAND. POSSIBILITY REMAINS, BUT AT PRESENT APPEARS MORE LIKELY ALLEGED DIE HARDS WILL CLAIM THEY NEVER

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RED WHEN TIDE HAS TURNED.

5. GENERAL IMPRESSION IS ONE OF SPONGY, SHAPELESS, GUTLESS GOVT AND PEOPLE. AMONG THESE BLIND, MYOPIC ONE-EYED MAN CAN BE BOSS.

6. WHERE AS DRAMATIC STRIKE AGAINST CAPITAL WOULD HAVE BEEN LESS USEFUL IN LAST FEW DAYS, BELIEVE TIME FOR IT, IN VIEW FOREGOING, RAPIDLY COMING AGAIN. WITH WOUNDED RETURNING, RUMORS ABOUT FRONT WILL THRIVE. IF FAVORABLE TO US, WE SHOULD REINFORCE THEM WITH AIR STRIKES; IF UNFAVORABLE, WE SHOULD COUNTER THEM. SUGGEST 24 OR 25 JUNE.

7. KNOW THIS HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT PEOPLE SITTING HERE LIKE KIDS WAITING FOR 4TH JULY FIRECRACKERS TO GO OFF. THE POPULAR IMAGINATION IS FASCINATED BY THE IDEA OF BOMBS. TO PEOPLE, BOMBS WILL SIGNIFY FORCE MAJEURE, TURN OF TIDE THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND DEPRIME SOPHISTICATION, HUMANE CONCERN. RECOMMEND WE SPEAK TO THESE KIDS IN KIDS LANGUAGE -- WITH A BIG BANG. 240105.

END OF MESSAGE

GABLE SECRETARIAT COMMENT: MR. ESTERLINE, WH, NOTIFIED OF RECEIPT OF THIS MESSAGE AT 0600 24 JUNE 54.

~~SECRET~~